

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-60 were rejected in the office action. Claims 1-60 have been canceled and claims 61-87 have been added. Therefore, following entry of the present response, claims 61-87 will be pending in the present application.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 16-18, 20, 22-24, 28, 40, 45-46, 48, and 57-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No. 3,656,112 to Paull ("Paull"). In particular, the office action alleges, *inter alia*, that Paull teaches converting a signal to a non-electrically conductive signal (205), and then communicating the non-electrically conductive signal to a non-electrically conductive communication path (*i.e.*, "wireless link" of Fig. 2) (*Office Action dated August 21, 2003* at p. 2). Applicants have canceled all previous claims and have added new claims that distinguish over Paull for at least the following reasons.

Briefly, in one embodiment, the present invention contemplates a method of communicating data signals over a power line, where the power line carries a voltage greater than one thousand volts. The inventive method includes inductively coupling a first data signal from the power line and demodulating the first data signal to provide a first digital data. The first digital data is then used to modulate light so as to provide a second data signal that is transmitted through a fiber optic cable.

As noted in the office action, Paull teaches converting a signal to a wireless signal using transceivers 205 and 206. Paull expressly notes that "[b]oth of the transceivers 205 and 206 may be either *radio or acoustic*." (*Paull* – column 3, lines 50-51) (emphasis added). Accordingly, the wireless signal transmitted from transceiver 205 to transceiver 206 would be either a radio frequency signal or an acoustic signal. The present invention, on the other

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hand, communicates a light modulated signal with a fiber optic transceiver. Therefore, Paull does not teach or suggest the present invention.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that claims 61-87 are patentable over Paull. Also, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 61-87.

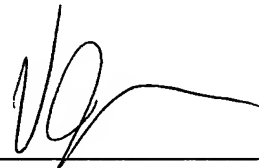
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### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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Vincent J. Roccia  
Registration No. 43,887

Woodcock Washburn LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor  
Philadelphia PA 19103  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439